

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 705

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9707

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: EXTRACT FROM REPORT ON TALK  
BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND CANADA'S SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MR. SHARP, ON MANDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1973

TEXT FOLLOWS OF EXTRACT ON REPORT ON TALK BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER  
GROMYKO AND CANADA'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
SHARP ON NOVEMBER 19, 1973 IN MOSCOW. THIS TEXT WAS CIRCULATED  
BY CANADA'S REP (GRANDE) IN AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF NOVEMBER  
21, 1973. BEGIN TEXT.

1. THE CONVERSATION WAS LED OFF BY ONE OF CANADA'S SENIOR  
OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTER'S PARTY WHO SAID INITIAL POSITIONS  
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HAD BEEN OUTLINED IN VIENNA AND DELEGATIONS WERE PROCEEDING

TO TRANSLATE THEM INTO DETAILED PROPOSALS. IT WAS BEST TO HAVE  
AND ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND A MINIMUM OF PUBLICITY.

2. MR. GROMYKO REPLIED THAT THE USSR HAD SET OUT ITS BASIC  
POSITION IN VIENNA AND HE BELIEVED IT WAS TIME TO WORK OUT  
AN AGREEMENT. THEY HAD SUMMITTED THEIR DRAFT BASED ON THE PREMISE  
OF EQUAL SECURITY AND NON-PREJUDICE TO SECURITY OF EITHER SIDE.

3. MR. SHARP SAID WE SHARED THIS VIEW BUT GROMYKO COMMENTED  
THAT IT WAS THEIR IMPRESSION THAT NOT ALL PARTICIPANTS  
DID SO. THE USSR HOWEVER HAD PATIENCE. MR. SHARP SAID CANADA  
ALSO HAD PATIENCE AND AS THESE WERE SERIOUS TALKS WE HAD MORE  
INTEREST IN A RESULT THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE THAN IN PROCEEDING  
QUICKLY. GROMYKO AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS COMPLICATED AND  
SAID IT WAS WRONG TO EXPECT TOO MANY RESULTS TOO SOON. HE SAID  
THIS WAS NOT TO IMPLY THAT THE USSR WAS AGAINST QUICK RESULTS  
PROVIDED THAT PRINCIPLE OF NON-PREJUDICE WAS OBSERVED. IN  
HIS VIEW THIS PROBLEM WILL TAKE A LONG TIME AND LIKELY  
BE SOLVED IN SEVERAL STAGES.

4. MR. SHARP SAID SURELY WE CAN ACHIEVE SOME SECURITY AT LOWER  
LEVELS OF ARMS AND ARMIES. GROMYKO REPLIED "IN LONG TERM  
CERTAIN OTHER FACTORS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BECAUSE THERE  
ARE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD BESIDE EUROPE, CANADA  
AND THE USA, INCLUDING SOME BIG ONES, AND ACCOUNT WILL HAVE  
TO BE TAKEN OF THEIR MILITARY MACHINES  
AND THE WAY THEY ACT, BUT EVEN IN PRESENT CONDITIONS MUCH CAN  
BE DONE". END TEXT HUMES

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